

America's

FUTURE

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TWO GREAT ISSUES

For the next few weeks we are going to hear a great deal about party platforms. These, of course, make up the set of principles and objectives on which, presumably, each party's candidates go to the voters. Everybody is now busy offering to the parties the planks out of which they should build their platforms. Certain of these suggestions are worth considering. In fact, some of them are of immense importance - as, for instance, the plank urged on both parties by the Committee

of One Million. This committee, whose governing board is made up of distinguished Americans regardless of party affiliation, wants a plank in both platforms declaring firmly against United States recognition of Red China or admission of Red China to the United Nations. Adoption of such a plank by both parties would take the issue out of the coming campaign, and declare to the world that the American people are united against the Red slave masters in China.

Another great issue facing both parties is the fiscal soundness of the United States and its government. There seems little hope that either party will squarely face the issue. But whether they do or not, one of these days the American people must face it. And their national existence may depend on its solution. Recently an American industrialist, Mr. W. F. Rockwell, called the attention of a Senate committee to a statement by historian Will Durant about ancient Rome. In the Second Century, Rome reached such tremendous power and prosperity that her citizens thought nothing could ever menace her. Dr. Durant's statement (from his *History of the Roman Empire*) ought to

be pasted in the hat of every delegate to both political conventions. He said:

'Amid the prosperity that made Rome brilliant in the Second Century, all the seeds were germinating for the crisis that was to bring her ruin in the Third Century. Private and local independence, initiative, and pride withered as the power of the State increased. The wealth of the nation was drained away by ever-rising taxation to support a self-multiplying bureaucracy. Government expenditures and doles exhausted the treasury and debased the currency.'

Change the word Rome to America, and you have an exact description of the great problem we face today.

SLANTED REVIEWS

A reader wants to know if I think the American people are still being brainwashed by some of our leading review journals. He refers to a book I once wrote* in which I analyzed the manner in which Americans had been prepared for the communist takeover in China. That's too long a story to tell here. But part of the

*WHILE YOU SLEPT, 192 pages, \$2.50.

job was done in the American State Department. Part was done in certain sections of the American press. Still another part was done through books, and the journals and people who reviewed them. The major objective was to convince Americans that the Reds in China were merely 'agrarian reformers' as they were called, and that Chiang Kai-shek and his Nationalist govern-

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ment were corrupt, fascist-minded and so on. It was a slick and effective propaganda job. An important part of it dealt with books on China. The method was to publish, promote and favorably review books by pro-communists and their dupes - and either to condemn or ignore books which tried to tell the truth about the Chinese Reds.

But to get back to the question: Are we still being brainwashed by the leading review journals? I am happy to say that the situation is somewhat better now than it was at the time of the China debacle. This is due in no small degree to the tireless efforts of numerous patriotic Americans in giving the peo-

ple the truth. However, there are still serious gaps. One of the most serious is the New York Times Sunday Book Review. The New York Times, of course, has a right to run its Book Review any way it wishes. The seriousness of the situation arises from the fact that its Sunday Book Review is considered an authority, and that it is used by many book outlets in deciding which books to promote and offer to the public.

As I have remarked before, the New York Times is a great newspaper. Its influence, especially the influence of its Sunday Book Review, was once well-deserved. But the Times Sunday Book Review, in the episode I just mentioned, was one of the worst offenders in the handling of books on China. This strange sort of fuzzy-minded leftist slant is still apparent today. And so this journal's influence tends to be always on the leftist-'liberal' side rather than on the conservative, pro-American side or even on no side at all. The important thing is to be aware of this slant, and to judge the Times Sunday Book Review accordingly.

A perfect example involves Senator Barry Goldwater's best-selling book THE CON-

SCIENCE OF A CONSERVATIVE. This book is forthright, sane and carefully reasoned. It is militantly anti-communist both as regards domestic and foreign affairs. And it is the first complete declaration of the true conservative's position we have had from a political figure in a long time. You may not agree with

everything Senator Goldwater says in his book. You even may not agree with any of it. But as a fair-minded American you must certainly admit that it deserves the same notice and attention at the hands of the *Times Sunday Book Review* which it accords to dozens of books on the other side of this great debate.

THE N.Y. TIMES AND SENATOR GOLDWATER

Senator Goldwater's book appeared more than three months ago. Its success has been phenomenal. With little or no promotion or advertising, nearly 70,000 copies of the hardcover edition have been sold, and a papercover edition is now being issued. But for nearly three months, not a line appeared in the *Times Sunday Book Review* about this book. Then, two weeks ago, it actually turned up on the *Times'* own best-seller list. Obviously, the *Times* could no longer ignore it. So it finally ran a review - away back on Page 14 of course, and in a single column. Who was the reviewer? He is a member of the *Times'* staff. He is a very nice guy, but he was once a socialist - and may still be, for all I know. He is certainly a modern

'liberal.' Not being able to answer Senator Goldwater's hard-hitting arguments, he did the next best thing from the *Times'* standpoint. He tried to make fun of the book.

The reviewer's bias being what it is, he cannot be blamed for thus trying to dismiss a serious and thoughtful book. The important point is this: Why is it that the *Times Sunday Book Review* - with great pretensions to fairness and objectivity - so consistently assigns conservative, anti-communist books to 'liberal' reviewers who are often soft on communism?

This is not the first time this same reviewer was assigned a hatchet-job on a conservative book. It happens rather frequently - whenever the *Times* feels it must review, rather than just ignore

a conservative book. A year or so ago, in a similar incident, a reader wrote to the publisher of the *New York Times*. He got an amazing reply. The publisher declared it was no concern of his whether the reviewer was a socialist or not. By the same token, I suppose the *Times*' publisher, in his great 'tolerance,' would be willing,

let us say, to assign a hatchet-job on a book about Jesus Christ to an atheist. However, even this would be within his rights. But it is also within the rights of the rest of us to know the facts before we accept the *New York Times Sunday Book Review* as the 'authority' it pretends to be.

- John T. Flynn

Foregoing items covered in Mutual network broadcast 7/10/60

Book Review MAJESTIC ANALYSIS

THE CONSTITUTION OF LIBERTY
by F. A. Hayek, 570 pages,
Chicago Univ. Press, \$7.50.

Professor Hayek has been teaching at the University of Chicago for the past ten years. He was born and raised in Austria, but later became a British subject. We mention these matters first, because we feel they have a bearing on the faults in this otherwise magnificent volume on the meaning and practice - morally, socially, legally, economically - of liberty.

Fifteen years ago Professor Hayek wrote a small volume called *The Road to Serfdom*. It was a devastating analysis of the underlying phoniness

of the Welfare State, and it brought down upon him a concerted attack by combined hordes of Reds, socialists, modern 'liberals' and dogooders. But the book gained a wide and influential readership. It is interesting to note that the present volume, which justly can be described as monumental, has been received much more kindly. Is it possible that the welfare-staters themselves are beginning to nurture secret doubts as to the Frankenstein monster they reared in our midst?

In any case, the first two-thirds of THE CONSTITUTION OF LIBERTY is a majestic analysis of the bases of in-

dividual liberty and of the forces of coercion against which we must always be on guard. The reasoning is superb, and unanswerable. It is in the last part of the book that the faults appear. And these faults are such that they hold a grave lesson for Americans concerned with the elements of liberty.

Professor Hayek, after stating the thesis of liberty – and buttressing the thesis with incontrovertible factual justification – then seems to bow his head under the blows of his earlier enemies. We could forgive him this lapse if he had said that compulsory social security, unemployment insurance and what is euphemistically called ‘urban renewal’ (federal handouts to cities, in plain English) were now imbedded in our system; that the people would never give them up; so we might as well accept them while doing our best to mitigate their coercive evils. But this he does not do. He attempts to justify them within the framework of his principles of individual lib-

erty. This he sadly fails to accomplish – and rightly so because, as we said, his exposition of those principles is unassailable.

The lesson here is that the socialist germs (we said the *germs*, not the germ-spreaders) must be destroyed without let or hindrance. Otherwise, they do their insidious work even in so clear a mind as Hayek's. He himself acknowledges that his book is largely a product of his background. It is a fine background – but it is European. His experience in the United States has been only in the years since the germs – endemic to European societies – have become virulent here. Perhaps a longer residence and deeper familiarity with the special nature of the principles of *American* individual liberty will one day bring a complete rout of the few welfare-state bacteria he still harbors.

But on the whole, this volume should take its place among the ‘greats’ in the literature of liberty.

– Rosalie Gordon

An electronic translating brain was fed the phrase ‘the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak.’ It came out in Russian ‘the whiskey is agreeable but the meat has gone bad.’

NO MATTER WHAT LABEL

"The American people are constantly told that a way to combat the communist menace is to turn over more and more power, to say nothing of more and more of their wealth, to a super-state. If the people allow that to happen, there will be small need of combatting communism - for we will simply adopt a communism of our own, no matter what label is given to it."

- Kemmerer (Wyo.) GAZETTE

FORESIGHT ON SUMMITRY?

"'Tis better to be alone than in bad company."

- George Washington

"He that lieth down with dogs will rise up with fleas."

- Benjamin Franklin

AND ON THE INCOME TAX

"This amendment (the 16th) will extend the federal power so as to reach the citizen in the ordinary business of his life. A hand from Washington will be stretched out upon every man's business; the eye of the federal inspector will be in every man's counting house.

"The law will, of necessity, have inquisitorial features; it will provide penalties. It will create a complicated

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machinery. An army of federal inspectors, spies and detectives will descend upon the states. They will compel men of business to show their books and disclose the secrets of their affairs. They will dictate forms of bookkeeping. They will require statements and affidavits. On the one hand the inspector can blackmail the taxpayer and on the other he can profit by selling his secret to his competitor."

- *Speaker Richard E. Byrd, to the Virginia House of Representatives in 1910*

